AgriBiz!

Anniversary Issue
Jan – June 2002

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

South Carolina FFA at 75

One Mission: Student Success

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Cover Photo:
State FFA President Kyle Hatcher (2001-02) leads the large delegation of FFA members, advisors, parents, state constitutional officers, state legislators and other supporters in the Pledge of Allegiance on the State House steps as part of the ceremony launching the observance of the 75th Anniversary of the FFA in South Carolina.

A Special Edition To Launch The 75th Anniversary Celebration Of FFA In SC

This special edition of AGRIBIZ *is designed to inaugurate the observance of the 75th anniversary of the South Carolina FFA, recognize the impact of Agricultural Education, and pay tribute to the leaders and teachers of agricultural education in South Carolina over the past three-quarters of a century.*

A diverse organization, FFA chapters are active in nearly 100 rural, urban and suburban schools in our state. Students, 12-21 years of age, who are enrolled in middle school, high school and collegiate agricultural education programs are eligible for membership.

The FFA has touched and inspired nearly three-quarters of a million South Carolinians since the mid-1920s. The expansion of agricultural education programs will continue to make the FFA a viable opportunity for many high school students now and in the years to come.

In 1988 the national organization changed its name from Future Farmers of America to the National FFA Organization to reflect its evolution in response to expanded agricultural opportunities encompassing science, business and technology, in addition to production agriculture. South Carolina high schools, middle schools and even Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences have made similar responses by updating course offerings to meet the needs of the changing agricultural industry.

In addition to being the premier organization for youth in agricultural education, the FFA is known for its emphasis on leadership training. Former FFA members serve as governors, constitutional officers, legislators, state and federal government officials, farmers, agribusiness leaders, educators, military leaders, bankers, ministers and countless other professions.

Agricultural teachers make a positive impact on the agricultural industry and the general public through quality educational programs in high schools, middle schools, and life-long learning opportunities for adults.

We are honored to dedicate this special issue of AGRIBIZ to past and present members of the FFA and agricultural educators whose efforts continue to keep South Carolina a great place to live, work and play.

John W. Parris
Executive Director,
Office of Public Affairs

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AgriBiz!
75th Anniversary Issue

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Stacy Whitaker — *Administrative Specialist, 864-656-3301*

SC FFA ASSOCIATION OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

John W. Parris — *State Director, 1401 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201, 803-771-0520, 803-771-9009 (fax), scffa@bellsouth.com*

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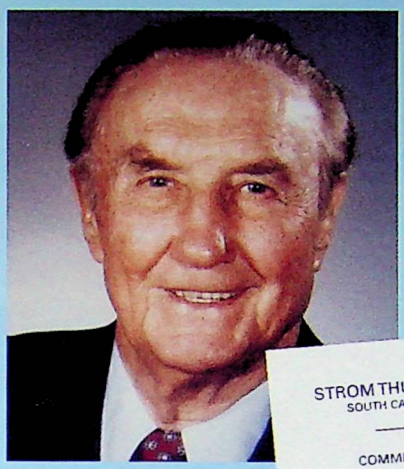
Greetings From United States Senator

Strom Thurmond



United States Senator Strom Thurmond from South Carolina, the longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of the nation, taught Agriculture at McCormick High School in McCormick, following graduation from Clemson College in 1923. In 1930 he was elected Superintendent of Education in Edgefield County. He was admitted to the Bar in 1930 and served as city and county attorney for several years. He was elected state Senator in 1933 and named a Circuit Judge in 1938. He was elected Governor in 1947 and in 1954 Senator Thurmond was elected to the United States Senate, a position he has held since.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS
UNITED STATES SENATE

STROM THURMOND
SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4001

May 22, 2002

Mr. John W. Parris
South Carolina FFA Association
Office of Public Affairs
1401 Hampton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Parris:

It has come to my attention that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the South Carolina Future Farmers of America Association. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the organization for reaching this significant and impressive milestone.

As a former teacher and Superintendent of Education for Edgefield County, I have always spoken about the value of an education. I commend the South Carolina Future Farmers of America for helping to promote agricultural education in the state. For 75 years the FFA has made significant contributions to the lives and future careers of agricultural students. By helping to develop the student's potential for leadership, personal growth, and a successful career, the FFA has made a positive impact in the lives of many individuals.

Congratulations again to all the members of the South Carolina Future Farmers of America Association for reaching the 75th anniversary of your organization. As always, please do not hesitate to call upon me if I may ever be of assistance to you as your United States Senator.

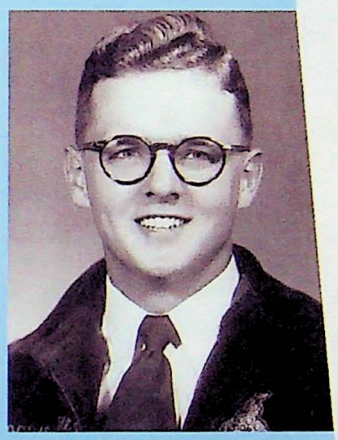
With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Strom Thurmond

Strom Thurmond

ST/fh



In 1949 State FFA President Jimmy Willis of Clio, a graduate of McColl High School, presented then Governor Strom Thurmond the Honorary State Farmer Degree at a gathering of 13,000 South Carolina FFA members and Junior Homemakers at the University of South Carolina Stadium.